

SESLIP CME Group Flexi Schooling Report May 2021

LA	Contacts	What is flexi schooling?	Arrangements?	Legal	Who can be flexi schooled?	What should Headteachers take into account?	Link to other policies? LA/DFE	Safeguarding emphasis?	Comments
Bucks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	N	Example of contract included
Hampshire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	- EMTAS - KCSIE	✓	
Oxfordshire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	
Kent	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	- 1996 Ed Act	N	
Slough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	- DFE EHE	N	Section on what parents should take into account
Southampton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-EHE April 19 -Admissions -CME -Education (pupil registration) regs 2006	Y	Very full document – process chart useful Separates flexi from reduced hours
West Berks	N	✓ Y	✓	✓	N	✓	-EHE April 2019 - 1996 Ed Act	✓	Appeals – different
West Sussex	✓	✓	N	✓	N	✓	N	✓	Reference to Ofsted Detailed contract headings Admissions /govs/class size all included

Aspects of good practice that all policies should include:

- An explanation of what is flexi schooling, differentiate from reduced hours provision/EHE
- Legal considerations – Headteacher decision, no right of appeal and parents are entitled to request but no legal right to have flexi schooling.
- Register arrangements – all agreed ‘C’ code, certainly not ‘B’
- Discussion of arrangements to be considered – contract?
- Who is entitled to be flexi schooled – most LA’s make it clear it is on a case-by-case basis
- What should headteachers consider? This is where most LA’s put-up arguments/reasons not to agree to flexi schooling generally it is around best interests of the child
- The safeguarding angle needs to be prominent, and some LA’s are stronger than others
- Examples of contracts may be seen as encouraging flexi school arrangements
- Nearly all LA’s have a named contact and encourage schools to contact a named officer
- Only one LA requests data on flexi school arrangements – most LA’s will not have the capacity to keep this data base which does not show up on attendance returns
- X – reference to other relevant policies – e.g. EHE, KCSIE

Questions for discussion:

- Overlap with licensing, elite sports
- Is this Flexi schooling document a policy or advice/guidance?
- Safeguarding as the golden thread
- Case studies where it has worked. Is this useful?
- Who is the audience – Heads/parents all?